

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 EUR-12 NEA-10 AF-10 SS-15  
SP-02 INR-10 IO-13 PA-01 /091 R

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APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT B. OAKLEY  
PM - MARIETTI (DRAFT)  
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-----034609 300517Z /21  
P 300217Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: US-AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS ON THE INDIAN  
OCEAN

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR RENOUF PRESENTED AIDE-MEMOIRE  
TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GELB ON MARCH 29 ACCEPTING US OFFER  
OF CONSULTATIONS IN PERIOD APRIL 11-13. AUSTRALIAN TEAM  
WILL BE HEADED BY W.B. PRITCHETT, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY COORDINATION, AND INCLUDES THREE  
MILITARY OFFICERS OF FLAG RANK PLUS DCM BIRCH AND JOHN  
BURGESS OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. GELB WELCOMED THE CONSULTATIONS AND STATED THAT HE  
WOULD HEAD US DELEGATION WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE OTHER  
SENIOR OFFICIALS SUCH AS HOLBROOKE, A RANKING CIVILIAN  
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DOD OFFICIAL, AND APPROPRIATE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES. HOW-  
EVER, WE WOULD ENVISAGE INITIAL PLENARY SESSION TO BE  
FOLLOWED BY WORKING LEVEL SESSIONS AT LOWER LEVELS. TENTA-  
TIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS IS TO BE WORKED OUT WITH AUSTRALIAN  
EMBASSY OVER NEXT FEW DAYS.

TEXT OF INFORMAL AIDE-MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:

WE ACCEPT THE OFFER WHICH HAS BEEN PUT TO US OF CONSULTA-  
TIONS IN WASHINGTON IN THE PERIOD 11-13 APRIL.

THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS HAS  
BEEN SELECTED TO COMPRISE, AS LEADER, MR. W.B.  
PRITCHETT (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY POLICY COORDINATION,  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE) AND WILL INCLUDE:-

MR. R.N. BIRCH (DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION)

REAR ADMIRAL P.H. DOYLE (CHIEF OF JOINT OPERATIONS AND  
PLANS - DESIGNATE)

AIR VICE MARSHALL S.D. EVANS (DEPUTY CHIEF OF AIR STAFF)

MAJOR GENERAL P. FALKLAND (HEAD AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE  
STAFF)

MR. J.R. BURGESS (ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEFENCE POLICY,  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS).

WE HAVE COMPOSED THE DELEGATION ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT  
THE UNITED STATES TEAM WILL INCLUDE APPROPRIATE SENIOR  
MILITARY OFFICERS. WE APPRECIATE THE 'TECHNICAL' AND  
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'EXPERT' COMPONENT OF THE DISCUSSIONS, AND THE LEVEL AND  
SPREAD OF SERVICE OFFICERS WERE DECIDED TAKING THIS INTO  
ACCOUNT.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE SCALE OF MILITARY REPRESENTATION IS  
APPROPRIATE, IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT TO  
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTERESTS. THE COMPOSITION AND  
BALANCE OF THE DELEGATION, WERE DECIDED UPON AFTER FULLEST  
CONSIDERATION IN THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE, TAKING INTO  
ACCOUNT OUR OBJECTIVES AS WE SEE THEM AND THE SCOPE OF  
THE AGENDA.

WE WELCOME THE BROAD SCOPE OF THE SUGGESTED AGENDA, WHICH  
WE ASSUME WAS SO DRAFTED AS TO RECOGNIZE THAT TALKS WITH  
AUSTRALIA ON THE TECHNICALITIES OF THE LAND-BASED STRIKE  
AIRCRAFT PROPOSAL ALONE WOULD NOT COVER ADEQUATELY THE  
COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE ADMINISTRATION  
AND OUR GOVERNMENT ALSO.

WE, THEREFORE, WELCOME THE PROPOSED AGENDA AS INDICATIVE  
OF UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DESIRE TO ENGAGE  
IN WIDER RANGING DISCUSSIONS. SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD

REQUIRE A MORE EMBRACING TITLE THAN THE ONE PROPOSED:  
'UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS

IN THE INDIAN OCEAN,' WOULD POSSIBLY BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

OUR CURRENT OVER-ALL APPROACH TO ISSUES INVOLVED IN  
THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN REVIEWED AGAIN BY THE DEFENCE  
COMMITTEE AND A POSITION PAPER WILL BE PREPARED FOR MINI-  
STERIAL ENDORSEMENT BEFORE THE CONSULTATIONS.

THE WISH OF PRESIDENT CARTER FOR AUSTRALIA TO BE CON-  
SULTED AT AN EARLY STAGE OVER THE LAND-BASED STRIKE  
AIRCRAFT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN WELL-NOTED BY MINISTERS WHO  
CONTINUE TO TAKE A CLOSE AND SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE  
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POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES/SOVIET NEGO-  
TIATIONS."

3. FYI: AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION IS MUCH HIGHER THAN  
"EXPERT" LEVEL ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BY US SIDE AND IS  
MUCH MORE DEFENSE ORIENTED THAN THE STATE-LED US TEAM.  
NEVERTHELESS, WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS  
ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY AUSTRALIAN AIDE-MEMOIRE. COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** OCEANS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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